balances available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State, a sum of Rs. 155.68 crore has been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

CLA for Rajasthan

1711. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that animal decline in ground water in drought, arid and desert conditions in Rajasthan has resulted in loss of lacs of hectares of fertile land to the State;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is willing to discuss with the Ministry of Water Resources to allow Rajasthan with liberal norms for Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(c) if so, by when the CLA would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Due to deficit rainfall, decline in ground water, etc., only 49.20 lakh hectare area could be sown in Rajasthan in Kharif 2002-03 as against normal coverage of 88.70 lakh hectare. Also, only 31.95 lakh hectare area could be sown in Rajasthan in Rabi 2002-03 as against normal coverage of 66.69 lakh hectare.

(b) and (c) Rajasthan State, being a reforming State under AIBP norms, have been provided with CLA in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre State) instead of 2:1 given to non-reforming States. An amount of Rs. 558.232 crores has been released to Rajasthan State under AIBP during 1996-97 to 2002-2003.

Production of European vegetables

†1712. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any project to produce European vegetables in the country itself;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.